SUPERMAN MEETS THE VIXEN! IS SHE HEROINE OR VILLAINESS?

50¢ ALL NEW! NO. 521 JULY

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SUPERMAN® STARRING IN ACTION® COMICS

ACTION-PLUS WITH THE ATOM AND AQUAMAN!

A NEW COSTUMED WOMAN JOINING THE FIGHT! BUT ON WHICH SIDE--MINE OR THEIRS?

ANDRU & GIORDANO

07 0 70989 30410 0

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET *KRYPTON*, *KAL-EL* GREW TO MANHOOD ON *EARTH*--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC *SUPER-POWERS!* IN THE CITY OF *METROPOLIS*, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN *CLARK KENT*--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER *EARTH*--AND *BEYOND*--AS...

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

NIGHT IN NEW YORK CITY... IT'S LIKE NIGHT NOWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD!

THIS NIGHT PROMISES TO BE PARTICULARLY SPECIAL...

SUPERMAN DAY at MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

CHARITY BENEFIT for NATIONAL DIABETES FOUNDATION
APRIL 10, 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT BOX OFFICE OR TICKETRON

S-3604

...FOR TONIGHT, A SHE-FOX IS ON THE PROWL!

THE DEADLY RAMPAGE OF THE Lady Fox

Featuring THE DYNAMIC DEBUT OF THE VIXEN created by: GERRY CONWAY

GERRY CONWAY *writer*
JOHN COSTANZA *letterer*
CURT SWAN *penciller*
GENE D'ANGELO *colorist*
FRANK CHIARAMONTE *inker*
JULIUS SCHWARTZ *editor*

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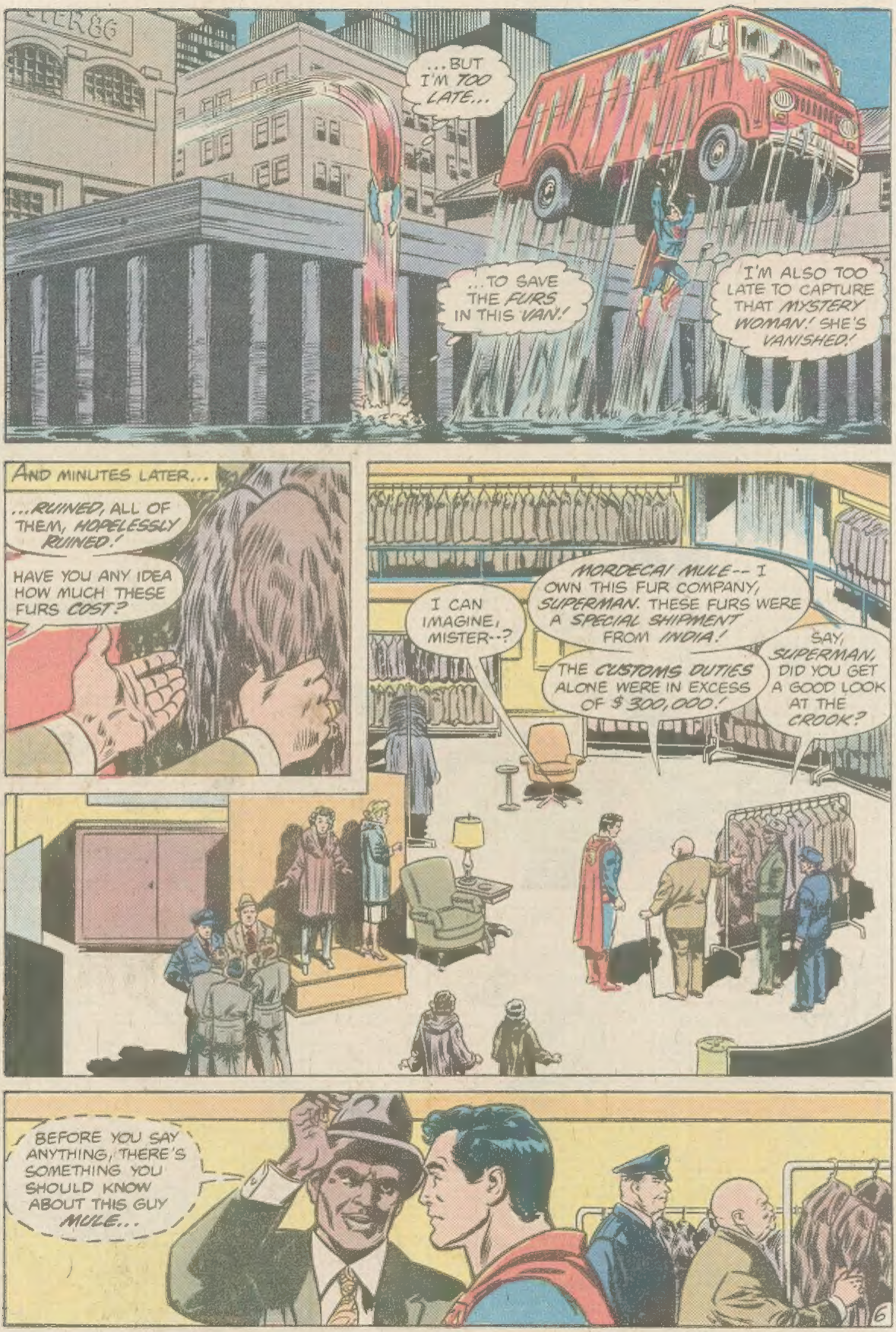
LIKE THE SLEEK, SLY CREATURE THAT IS HER NAMESAKE, SHE PAUSES IN THE DARKNESS TO SCENT THE AIR...
...THEN, SATISFIED THAT SHE'S STILL ON THE TRACK OF HER PREY, SHE SPRINGS WITH THE GRACE OF A GAZELLE...
SUPERMAN DAY AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN
...AND LANDS AS SILENTLY AS A JUNGLE CAT...
Strandar FURS
IF IT WASN'T FOR THE OVERTIME PAY, I'D QUIT THIS JOB!
YEAH, HAULING FURS FROM ONE WAREHOUSE TO ANOTHER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AIN'T MY IDEA OF A--
--GOOD TIME.
YEEOWW
WHOOOF!
2

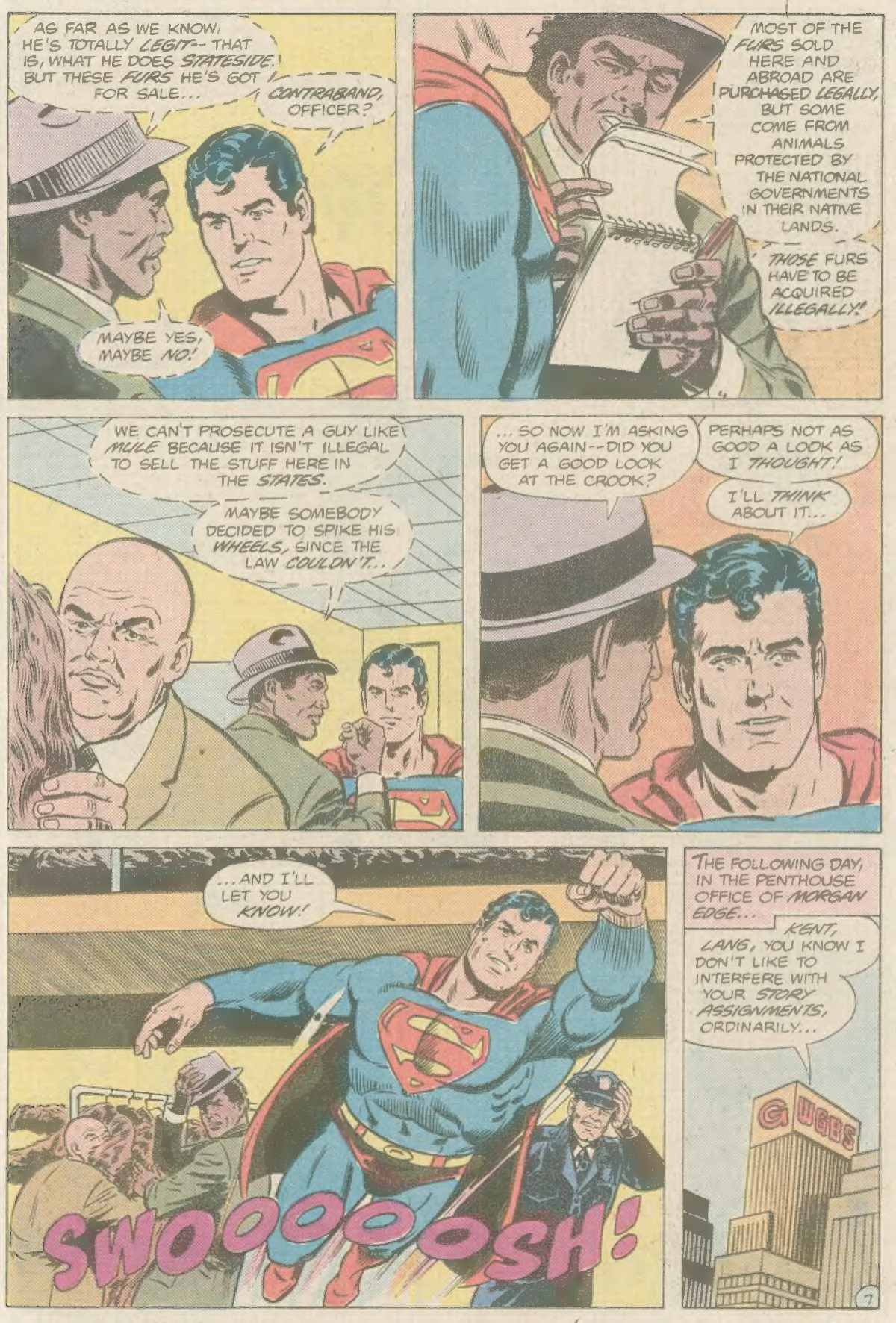
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, EXACTLY FIFTEEN BLOCKS AWAY...
--A WONDERFUL SUCCESS, THANKS TO YOUR ASSISTANCE, SUPERMAN!
WHY, WITH THE TICKET SALES ALONE, WE'VE RAISED ALMOST $250,000 FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH...
...AND WHEN YOU COUNT IN THE PLEDGES WE RECEIVED FROM THE TELETHON AUDIENCE, IT'S IN EXCESS OF..
HE-ELP!
...A MILLION DOL-LARS--
MY GOODNESS!
I HEARD A CRY FOR HELP...
...WITH MY SUPER-HEARING...
...AND IT CAME FROM THIS LOADING DOCK!
IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH DEDUCTIVE ABILITY TO SEE THERE'S BEEN A ROBBERY HERE!
HELP...YOU GOTTA STOP HER... STOLE ALL THE FURS...!
3

WHO STOLE YOUR FURS--?
SOME DAME IN A COSTUME!
SHE DUMPED 'EM IN OUR VAN AND TOOK OFF... THAT WAY!
THOSE MEN ARE STUNNED, NOT HURT!
SCANNING THE STREETS AHEAD WITH MY X-RAY VISION, I THINK I'VE FOUND HER...
...HEADING AT TOP SPEED TOWARD THE HUDSON RIVER!
YOU JERK-- DIDN'T YOU SEE THAT RED LIGHT?
SUPERMAN?
I CAN'T LET HIM STOP ME FROM WHAT I HAVE TO DO!
I'LL LASH THE WHEEL IN PLACE WITH THESE SCRAPS OF ROPE...
...AND THEN TRY TO DELAY SUPERMAN FOR THE PRECIOUS FEW SECONDS I NEED TO COMPLETE MY PLAN!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

WHAT IN RAO'S NAME?
INCREDIBLE!
I'M ACTUALLY BEING KNOCKED BACK... FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE BEEN HIT BY A BULL ELEPHANT!
AND HER CLAWS... ONE MANAGED TO SCRATCH ME?!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY INVULNERABILITY? HOW CAN THIS SLIM YOUNG WOMAN DO WHAT HARDLY ANYONE HAS EVER MANAGED TO DO?
KRASH
THE VAN! MUST HAVE GONE OUT OF CONTROL!
IF IT LANDS IN THE RIVER, THE FURS INSIDE WILL BE RUINED!
I HAVE TO MOVE QUICKLY! A BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH WILL BLOW MY OPPONENT OUT OF MY HAIR...
WHOOOOSH


...BUT I'M TOO LATE...
...TO SAVE THE FURS IN THIS VAN!
I'M ALSO TOO LATE TO CAPTURE THAT MYSTERY WOMAN! SHE'S VANISHED!
AND MINUTES LATER...
...RUINED, ALL OF THEM, HOPELESSLY RUINED!
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA HOW MUCH THESE FURS COST?
I CAN IMAGINE, MISTER--?
MORDECAI MULE-- I OWN THIS FUR COMPANY, SUPERMAN. THESE FURS WERE A SPECIAL SHIPMENT FROM INDIA!
THE CUSTOMS DUTIES ALONE WERE IN EXCESS OF $300,000!
SAY, SUPERMAN, DID YOU GET A GOOD LOOK AT THE CROOK?
BEFORE YOU SAY ANYTHING, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS GUY MULE...


AS FAR AS WE KNOW, HE'S TOTALLY LEGIT-- THAT IS, WHAT HE DOES STATESIDE. BUT THESE FURS HE'S GOT FOR SALE...
CONTRABAND, OFFICER?
MAYBE YES, MAYBE NO!
MOST OF THE FURS SOLD HERE AND ABROAD ARE PURCHASED LEGALLY, BUT SOME COME FROM ANIMALS PROTECTED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR NATIVE LANDS.
THOSE FURS HAVE TO BE ACQUIRED ILLEGALLY!
WE CAN'T PROSECUTE A GUY LIKE MULE BECAUSE IT ISN'T ILLEGAL TO SELL THE STUFF HERE IN THE STATES.
MAYBE SOMEBODY DECIDED TO SPIKE HIS WHEELS, SINCE THE LAW COULDN'T...
... SO NOW I'M ASKING YOU AGAIN--DID YOU GET A GOOD LOOK AT THE CROOK?
PERHAPS NOT AS GOOD A LOOK AS I THOUGHT!
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT...
...AND I'LL LET YOU KNOW!
SWOOOOOSH!
THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN THE PENTHOUSE OFFICE OF MORGAN EDGE...
KENT, LANG, YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE TO INTERFERE WITH YOUR STORY ASSIGNMENTS, ORDINARILY...
GUBBS
7

...BUT AS THE OWNER OF GALAXY COMMUNICATIONS AND WGBS-TV, I THINK I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO POINT OUT POTENTIALLY POWERFUL "FEATURES"!
BESIDES, THIS IDEA COULD GIVE US SOCKO RATINGS!
BUT...ISN'T INDIA A LITTLE FAR AFIELD FROM OUR USUAL METROPOLIS BEAT, MR. EDGE?
FOR ONCE I AGREE WITH CLARK.
WHO CARES ABOUT FUR-POACHING IN THE INDIAN JUNGLES?
I'LL TELL YOU WHO CARES, MISS LANG... ANYONE WHO IS CONCERNED ABOUT ECOLOGY AND THE DIGNITY OF LIFE!
I PUBLISH A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO HIGH FASHION... BUT THIS IS A SUBJECT THAT VITALLY CONCERNS MY READERSHIP--
--AND IF MY OLD FRIEND SOLOMON SAMUELS THINKS IT'S IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO COVER, THEN I AGREE WITH HIM!
WE'RE PLANNING TO OVERLAP OUR COVERAGE, IN HIS "FASHION" MAGAZINE, AND ON OUR SIX O'CLOCK REPORT.
POACHING IS THE DARK SIDE OF THE FASHION INDUSTRY, MISS LANG!
CERTAIN ANIMAL SPECIES ARE BEING MADE EXTINCT BECAUSE THEIR FURS ARE CONSIDERED "FASHIONABLE"...
...AND I SAY IT'S A STORY THAT NEEDS TELLING!
SO TELL IT, YOU TWO! YOUR PLANE LEAVES IN ONE HOUR!
ALL RIGHT, LUV, WE GET THE MESSAGE!

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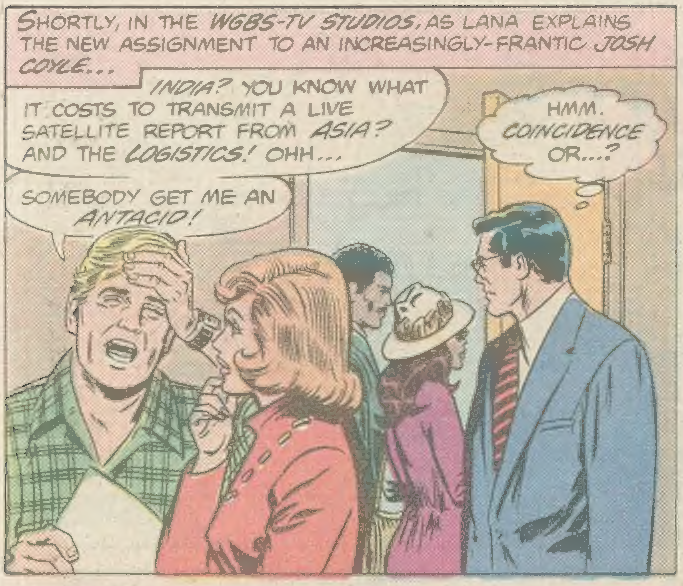

SHORTLY, IN THE WGBS-TV STUDIOS, AS LANA EXPLAINS THE NEW ASSIGNMENT TO AN INCREASINGLY-FRANTIC JOSH COYLE...
INDIA? YOU KNOW WHAT IT COSTS TO TRANSMIT A LIVE SATELLITE REPORT FROM ASIA? AND THE LOGISTICS! OHH...
HMM. COINCIDENCE OR...?
SOMEBODY GET ME AN ANTACID!

I WONDER IF THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN LAST NIGHT'S ACTIONS IN NEW YORK AND MORGAN EDGE'S BRAINSTORM TODAY...?
WHO'S THAT WITH SOLOMON SAMUELS?
STUDIO 7

IT'S ALL SET, MARI. JUST THE WAY YOU WANTED IT!
EDGE IS SENDING CLARK KENT AND LANA LANG TO COVER THE POACHING STORY IN NEW DELHI!...

...BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO TELL THEM YOU WERE COMING ALONG!
SOLOMON, DEAR, WHAT WOULD THEY HAVE SAID IF THEY'D KNOWN THAT MARI MACABE WAS JOINING THEIR PARTY?

AS FAR AS MOST PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED, I'M SIMPLY A HIGH-PRICED FASHION MODEL...
...WHICH IS ANOTHER TERM FOR EMPTY-HEADED BEAUTY!

NONSENSE! YOU'RE A BUSINESSWOMAN! MODELING WAS JUST YOUR ENTRÉE INTO THE FASHION CAREER!
WE KNOW THAT! THE WORLD STILL SEES ONLY STEREOTYPES.
NO, SOLOMON, MY ONLY LOVE...
9

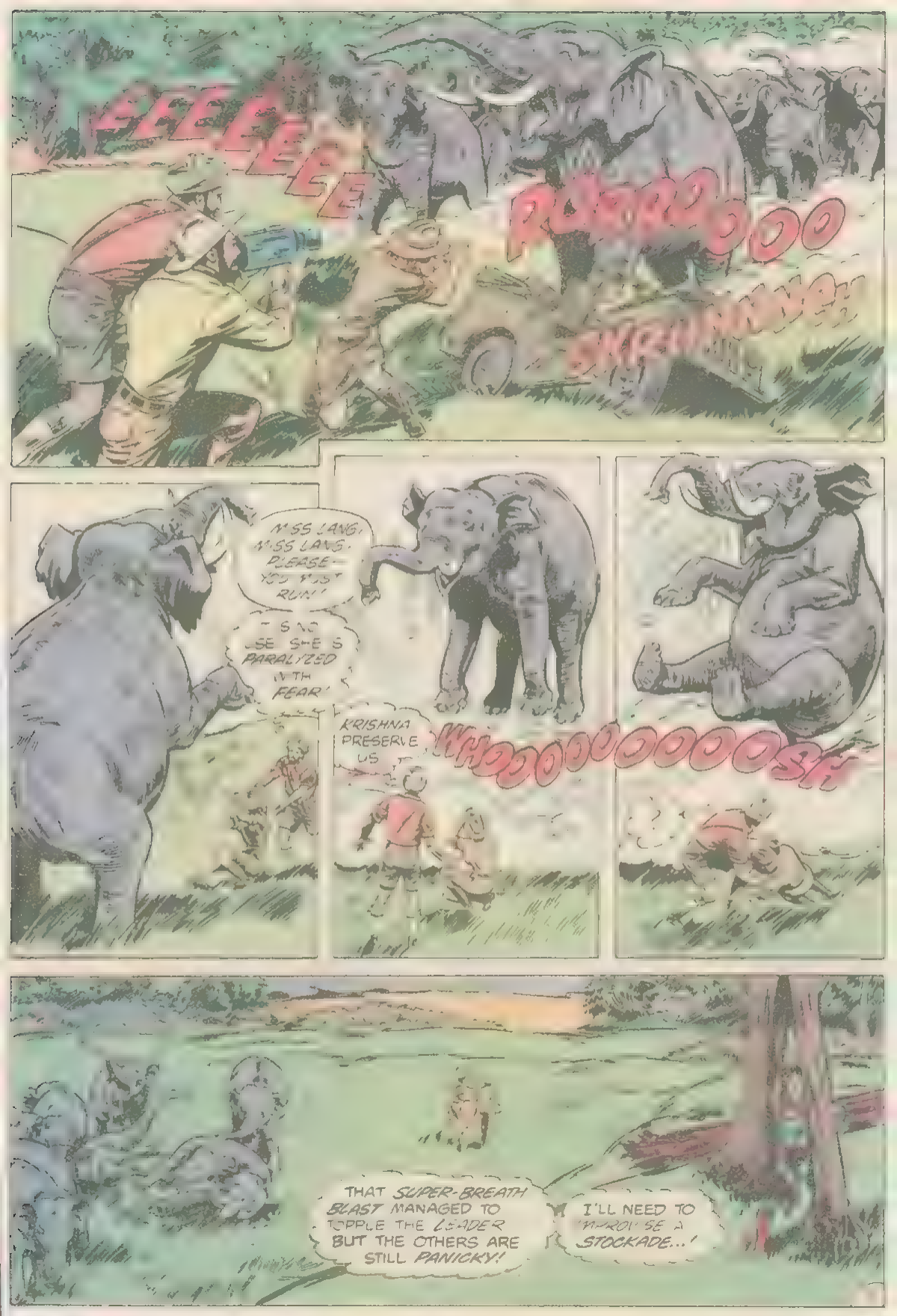
I'LL GO ON THIS TRIP INCOGNITO, AS PLANNED
IT'LL WORK OUT BETTER THIS WAY I PROMISE MY
AND IT'LL GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO ACT AS THE VIXEN, IF I HAVE TO...
THAT WAY NO ONE WILL BE able TO CONNECT THE LADY FOX WITH MARI MACABE!
HERE PEOPLE STARVE IN BROAD DAYLIGHT HERE THE CURSE OF OVERPOPULATION IS AS REAL A THREAT AS TOTAL WAR
YET SOMEHOW EVEN A FLOWER BREAKS THROUGH CONCRETE
THE SPIRIT OF HUMANITY MANAGES TO SHOW ITS FORCE AND THE SQUALOR AND ANGUISH IN THE SMILE OF A CHILD
OR THE LAUGHTER OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN LOVE

MISS LANG? I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU! YOUR HOTEL CONCIERGE SAID YOU'D GONE OUT. MY NAME IS KARAMCHAND GOOSE
I AM TO GUIDE YOU AND MISTER KENT THROUGH OUR JUNGLE.
FORGET CLARK. HE'S VANISHED, AS USUAL.
I CAN HANDLE THIS STORY JUST AS WELL ALONE.
AS YOU WISH. BUT WE MUST BE CAREFUL. THESE POACHERS CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS
HMMM-- LOOKS LIKE IT'S A GOOD THING I WAS FORCED TO COME HERE TO OVERSEE OPERATIONS
THAT WOMAN DOWN THERE-- LANA LANG A TV REPORTER
AND IF SHE'S HERE FOR THE REASON I THINK SHE IS, I MAY BE NECESSARY TO TAKE A HAND 'N HER-- ELIMINATION!
MOMENTS LATER AS MORDECAI MULE SETS OUT TO FOLLOW LANA LANG--
--HE PICKS UP AN UNEXPECTED PASSENGER--
--WHO IN TURN ATTRACTS THE ATTENTION OF A WILD-MANNERED REPORTER!
GREAT SCOTT! IT'S HER!

I BETTER FOLLOW... BUT WHERE CAN I SWITCH TO SUPERMAN IN THIS CROWD?
AS THE ONLY AMERICAN [illegible] I'M TOO CONSPICUOUS
BUT MAYBE I CAN TAKE MYSELF OUT OF VIEW FOR A PRECIOUS FEW SECONDS
HA-HAHAHA
FWOOOOM
MOVING SO FAST--I'M INVISIBLE! ALL THOSE PEOPLE WILL FEEL IS A SLIGHT BREEZE!
[illegible] SENT [illegible] BACK TO CAN UP THE [illegible] FLAMES! SO SHE COULD GO OFF ALONE WITH OUR GUIDE!
UNFORTUNATELY SHE ISN'T ALONE THAT JEEP FOLLOWING HER
...NOT ONLY IS THAT MYSTERY WOMAN RIDING IN ROCE
BUT MORDECA MULE IS ITS ONLY PASSENGER!

FIRST THINGS FIRST!
I WANT A WORD WITH THIS LADY FOX!
THE WIND SEEMS STRONG TODAY. THAT'S GOOD. IT'LL CARRY THE SCENT OF FEAR WHEN WE START THE STAMPEDE!
BUT, MR. MILLE, OUR HUNTERS ARE UP AHEAD!
RROOOOO
OF THEM MUST DIE
YES AND THAT NEWSWOMAN IS GOING TO COME ACROSS THEM AND MOMENT THE RESULTING ARRESTS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY REVEAL MY PARTICIPATION
UNFORTUNATELY FOR THAT REASON
I'LL BE ABOVE
LADY, NOT THIS TIME! I'M NOT LETTING YOU NEAR ME WITH THOSE CLAWS OF YOURS!
UNDERSTAND? YOU'RE TO STAY DOWN THERE!
LIABLE TO DO ANYTHING!

BEFORE THAT, I WANT SOME EXPLANATIONS!
YOU DESTROYED MORDECAI MULE'S FUR SHIPMENT TO FORCE HIM TO COME HERE TO INDIA, WHERE HE COULD BE CAUGHT POACHING
OF COURSE! HE WAS STRAPPED FOR CASH. HE HAD TO PUSH HIS HUNTERS TO WORK FASTER-- PUSH PERSONALLY!
AND YOU WANTED AMERICAN REPORTERS ON HAND TO COVER IT... AS A WARNING TO OTHER FUR IMPORTERS IN THE STATES..
RIGHT AGAIN! I HAVE CONTACTS IN PUBLISHING. THEY CONVINCED MORGAN EDGE CAN ME GO NOW
ONE THING MORE THAT MEDALLION AROUND YOUR NECK, IT'S SOME SORT OF MAGIC TALISMAN, ISN'T IT?
THE TANTU TOTEM GIVES ME MY ANIMAL-BASED POWERS.
SHE AND THOSE POWERS TELL ME... THERE'S TROUBLE!
AN ELEPHANT STAMPEDE
I'LL HANDLE THE ELEPHANTS YOU TAKE CARE OF MORDECAI MULE!
MAGICAL POWERS - THAT EXPLAINS HOW SHE COULD HURT ME! I'M VULNERABLE TO MAGIC!
AND A FEW HUNDRED YARDS AWAY
THERE, YOU SEE--? POACHERS! OUR ANONYMOUS TIP WAS CORRECT! NOW WE WILL FOLLOW THEM, WATCH WHERE THEY GO.
RRROOOOOO
THAT SOUND BEHIND US--LIKE A ROARING TRAIN-- BUT NOT A TRAIN WHISTLE-- A TRUMPETING


EEEEEE
RUMBLE
MSS LANG! MSS LANG! PLEASE— YOU MUST RUN!
IT'S NO USE SHE'S PARALYZED WITH FEAR!
KRISHNA PRESERVE US!
WHOOOOOOOOOSH
THAT SUPER-BREATH BLAST MANAGED TO TOPPLE THE LEADER BUT THE OTHERS ARE STILL PANICKY!
I'LL NEED TO IMPROVISE A STOCKADE..!

THESE TREES SHOULD DO, AFTER I TRIM THEM WITH MY HEAT VISION!
THOSE ELEPHANTS AREN'T REALLY ROGUES-- THEY'RE JUST FRIGHTENED--!
AND NOW THAT THEY'RE CONTAINED, THEY SHOULD CALM DOWN IN JUST A FEW MINUTES!
I WONDER HOW MY YOUNG ALLY IS DOING WITH MORDECAI MULE?
AND AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE GRASSY FIELD...
YOU SAW? THAT WAS SUPERMAN! IF HE'S HERE, WE'RE FINISHED!
WE MUST GET AWAY!
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY THIS TIME, MULE!
THE INNOCENT BEASTS YOUR MEN HAVE SLAIN DEMAND REVENGE!
YOU'RE THE WOMAN MY MEN DESCRIBED-- THE ONE WHO RUINED MY FURS!
I'LL SKEWER YOU FOR THAT..
THINK SO?

UNNN
UHHH
UUUUU
OOOOOH
AND YOU?
M-M-ME? NO, THANKS, LADY... I GIVE UP!
AND SO, NOT MANY MOMENTS LATER...
WHERE'S THIS FEMALE YOU WERE TELLING US ABOUT LUV?
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GONE, LANA...
...BUT SHE'S LEFT US A PRESENT!
AND SOMEHOW I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL MEET HER AGAIN!
HERE'S A MULE I LEFT FOR YOU TO SK
THE END

NEXT ISSUE: WHEN THE WORLD STARTS MOVING AT SUPER-SPEED, SUPERMAN MUST STOP "THE TIME-TORNADO OF THE CLOCKWORK MAN!"

ON SALE MAY 21! IT'S A DATE!

Dear Editor

I am always impressed with writers who, rather than turn out familiar, standard plots, take chances and gamble a little with their stories. Marv Wolfman seems to have this daring prowess as seen in his conclusion of the *Vandal Savage* story in #516's "Time and Time Again"! Not only did he take a chance with one of comicdom's oldest rules, but he beat the odds and the payoff for us was one of the most wonderfully complex and fascinating tales of the year.

To be sure, Marv didn't really break the rule that says history can't be changed. Rather, he altered it, using the old "Superman's Greatest Feats" for the precedent that *Superman* can change history on a parallel Earth. Once Lex Luthor explained to Jimmy Olsen (and us) what was going on, the events in #515 not only made sense but were joyously branded as real—not a hoax, not a dream. This newly amended rule was not only the perfect solution, but it should be of further use to other writers. The possibilities seem endless.

Naturally, Marv also had to establish a way out for Earth's dilemma in the form of *Vandal*'s overblown plan. It was one thing to change history on a limited scale, but another to guide and alter it completely. The "time bomb" was one of those seemingly foolproof plans that only *Superman* could handle. The chase through time was a fascinating sequence for not only history buffs, but also those readers craving what the title of this magazine promises.

Finally, I liked the way this story was filled with ironies and details, intentional or not. Marv borrowed a bit from the *Superman* movie in his time-travel sequence and also that *Superman* called Jimmy "Jim," as in the film. Irony also played a part in Savage's defeat since it was the fireball that created" him which also dealt him his defeat.

TONY EDWARDS
454 N. Formosa Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036

You're right, Tony, in pointing out that there was a precedent for the history-changing done by Vandal Savage. But as for that sparking a series of Earth-One heroes changing history on Earth-Two, etc., it's something we don't think will occur. –BR

. . . . .

Dear Editor

"Time and Time Again", I thought, was an alternate universe story which was going to end with that world's *Superman* meeting our own *Superman* meeting and joining forces to defeat *Vandal Savage*. I struck out, but Marv Wolfman hit a home run.

One thing that's nice to see, though, is that even in alternate histories, *Superman* and Lois Lane still love each other. Maybe this is your way of saying they are meant for each other. The same applies to Lex Luthor. His soul, not her personality, hates *Superman* and no alternate course of events can change that.

Meanwhile, in the back-up, *The Atom* solves "The Clueless Capers of Chronos". It's a tragedy such a good character doesn't get his own book back, instead being doomed to back-ups and guest-shots. *The Atom* has charisma, he's lovable, he grows on you. And next issue he gets kicked out of *ACTION* by *Aquaman*. I'm mad at you guys.

JESSICA ALEXANDER
Marquette, MI 49855

The departure of The Atom and Air Wave from these pages sparked more mail than either story in the issue, a sampling of which follows!—BR

Dear Editor

"The Clueless Capers of Chronos" was just fine. DC is to be commended for these back-up features since they allow readers to "check in" with DC's many characters and just catch up on them, like getting a brief letter from someone you haven't seen in awhile.

I like clever plots filled with surprise revelations like the *Atom/Chronos/*Lt. Madonna triple impersonation and *Atom* deducing the thief was *Chronos* by what he *didn't* steal. But I do think shutting the Tiny Titan in a blender full of maple syrup was an odd choice.

Next issue is *Aquaman*, eh? I'd much rather see *Air Wave* back. The kid's certainly got more personality than ol' Fish Face.

GREG FLOOD
115 Rumson Road NE #10
, Atlanta, GA 30305

. . . . .

Dear Editor

I am not an *Atom* fan nor do I often write letters specifically about the back-up features, but "The Clueless Capers of Chronos" was *the* best Mighty Mite story I've ever read. Seeing him battle a major villain and his weapon, riding coins escaping a blender, donning a disguise and just plain playing detective to track down his quarry made it worthy of being in *ACTION*. Thanks, Bob Rozakis.

I'm also ecstatic that *Aquaman* is joining the book next issue. He has so much potential and yet is so poorly treated.

NEIL AHLQUIST
1315 Madison Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Yes! Find a spot in the DC universe for *Air Wave*. Throw *Superman* out of *ACTION* if you have to, but make room for him!

GEORGE McROBB
720 Ashburn Street
Winnipeg, Man. R3G 3C5

Here's my vote for keeping *Air Wave* in *ACTION*. He is a refreshing change.

TERRY LEE
No Address Given

Air Wave's the best.
The Atom's a pest!
Keep *Air Wave* flying
and the heck with the rest!

MICHAEL FORRAGHER
No Address Given

What a silly question! Do I want to see *Air Wave* back in *ACTION*? Of course I do! He's the reason I bought the magazine!

DEAN HARRIS
517 Terrace Drive
Warrensburg, MO 64093

I'd like to see *Air Wave*, *The Atom*, and *Aquaman* all alternating. Maybe each could run four issues. But if that isn't possible, keep *Atom* and *Air Wave*.

LEONA CANTIN
58 Hayden Avenue
Tiverton, RI 02878

To all of you who wrote about how we should handle our back-up slot, thanks. We think we've got the solution to please everybody and this issue's Aquaman/Atom team-up is the first installment. Next month will see the first of two Atom solo tales, followed by an Atom/Air Wave team-up. Then AW will fly alone for two issues before joining forces with Aquaman, who will then star in two solos before again teaming with The Atom. And so on and so on. Now, is everybody happy? I am!—Bob Rozakis

CURRENT SUPER-ATTRACTIONS

ON SALE APRIL 23rd

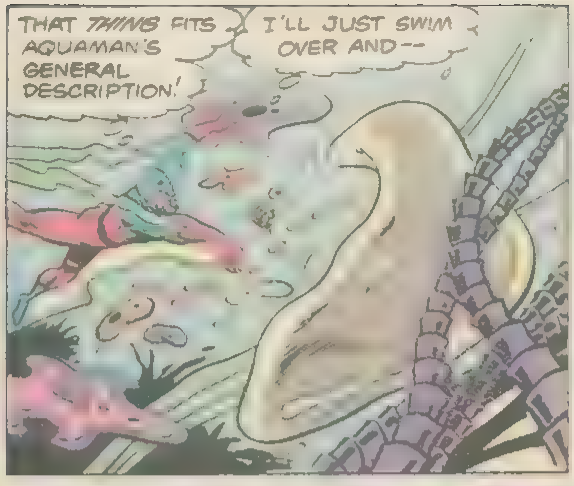
NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY #19—It's "Zero-Hour for the Kents" while Superbaby takes part in "The Scrambled Egg Hunt"!

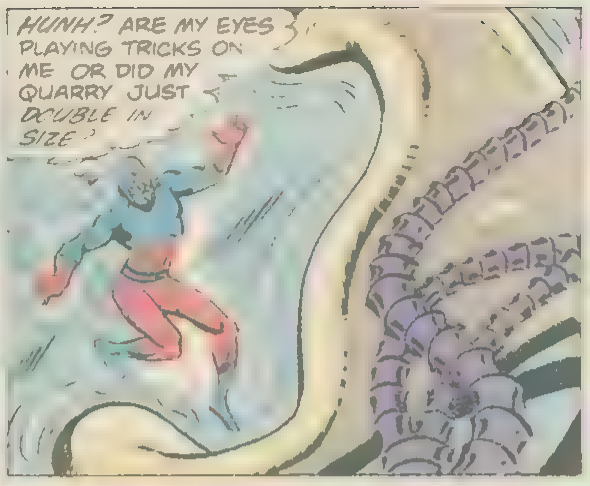
SUPER FRIENDS #46—There are heroes galore in "The Conqueror's Greatest Conquest"! Also *The Seraph* in "Echo of Evil" written and drawn by Bob Oksner.

THE SON OF MAN AND MERMAID, ARTHUR CURRY IS THE MARINE-POWERED AVENGER OF THE SEVEN SEAS!
USING A FRAGMENT OF A WHITE DWARF STAR, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST RAY PALMER FOUND A WAY TO SHRINK TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE!
TOGETHER THEY ARE...
AQUAMAN AND The ATOM
IN AN ISOLATED COVE ON THE VIRGINIA SHORE, AQUAMAN TURNS HIS THOUGHTS FROM PERSONAL PROBLEMS TO A LONG-DELAYED EXPERIMENT...
HAWKMAN'S ABILITY TO CONVERSE WITH BIRDS HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUPERIOR TO MY COMMUNICATION WITH MARINE CREATURES--
...PERHAPS BECAUSE HE TALKS WHILE I USE TELEPATHY--
--BUT I'VE NEVER REALLY TRIED TO HOLD A CONVERSATION WITH MY FINNY FRIENDS!
THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AND TIME AS ANY TO TRY!
FREND CROAKER, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO ME?
BOB ROZAKIS writer
ALEX SAVIUK pencils
VINCE COLLETTA inks
JOHN COSTANZA letters
JERRY SERPE colors
JULIUS SCHWARTZ editor
DANGER!
BY THE SEVEN SEAS! I TRY FOR A CHAT AND GET AN ALARM!
GROW, LITTLE GROWFISH!

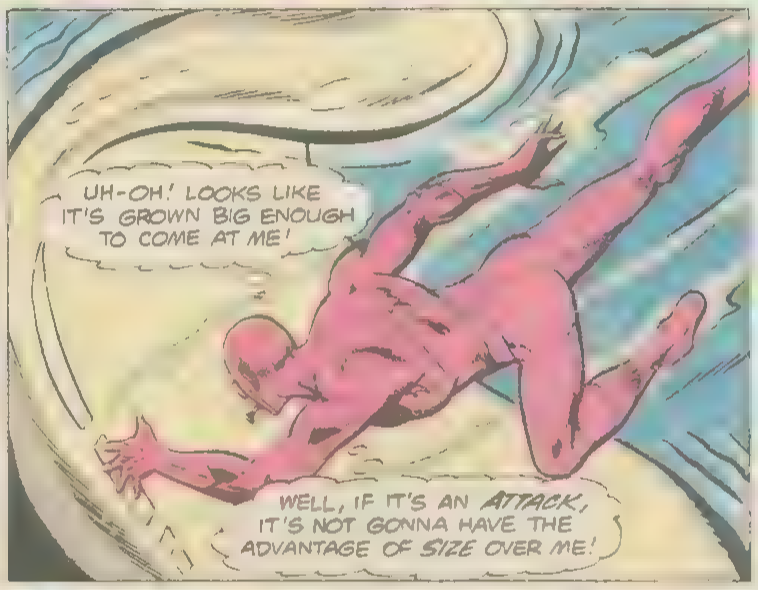
WHAT KIND OF AQUATIC LIFE-FORM IS THAT? I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE!
BUT AS AQUAMAN MOVES CLOSER TO EXAMINE THE MYSTERIOUS SEA-CREATURE
IT'S SHRINKING--DISAPPEARING RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES?!
IS IT AFRAID OF ME... OR WHAT--?
GONE!
TOO BAD I DON'T HAVE SUPERMAN'S MICROSCOPIC VISION!
BUT THE WAY IT SHRANK--SUGGESTS TO ME SOMEONE WHO MIGHT HELP ME FIND IT AGAIN!
UTILIZING THE COMMUNICATING DEVICE IN HIS BELT-BUCKLE AND THE TELEPORTER IN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE SATELLITE, 'HELP' IS SUMMONED.
AND BROUGHT TO THE SCENE.
ATOM! GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO RESPOND.
IF THIS IS YOUR WAY TO KEEP ME FROM EATING THE TUNA CASSEROLE MY WIFE JEAN WAS COOKING
HARDLY! I'VE GOT A PROBLEM THAT WILL REQUIRE YOUR SHRINKING POWERS TO SOLVE!
YOU BROUGHT THE "EQUIPMENT"?
THIS SHRINKABLE REBREATHER? I WOULDN'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT--
SO WHAT'S THE DEEP MYSTERY?

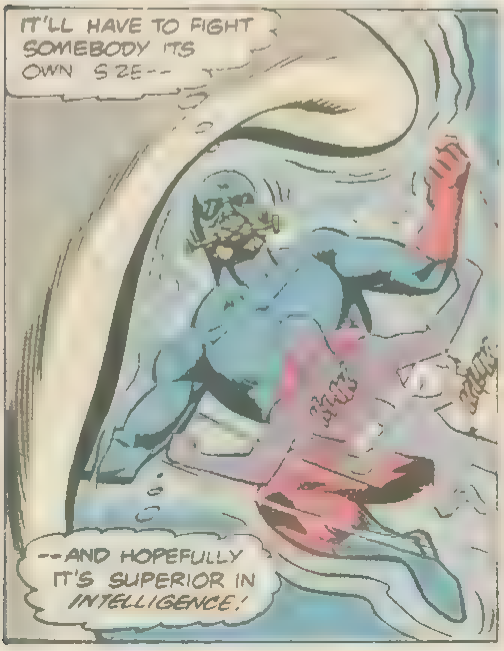
AND AFTER THE SEA KING EXPLAINS
THEN ALL YOU WANT ME TO DO IS FIND THIS MICROSCOPIC THING--?
THAT'S LIKE WE'RE TELLING YOU TO FIND A COIN SOMEBODY DROPPED IN MID-ATLANTIC!
SOUNDS LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE JOB--
--BUT IF ANYONE ON EARTH...OR IN WATER... CAN DO IT, YOU CAN!
THAT'S IT-- PLAY UP TO THE SCIENTIST IN ME!
BELIEVE ME, I LOVE IT
EVEN AS HE HITS THE WATER, THE TINY TITAN BEGINS TO SHRINK...
..DOWN TO THE SIZE OF THE SMALLEST ONE-CELLED SEA CREATURE--
NO POINT IN GETTING ANY SMALLER!
THE NEXT STOP IS ATOMIC SIZE AND I WOULD BE FLOATING BETWEEN THE H2O MOLECULES DOWN HERE
TALK ABOUT A POPULATION EXPLOSION-- THERE'S SO MUCH STUFF IN THIS WATER THERE'S HARDLY ANY ROOM TO MANEUVER
AQUAMAN'S A NICE GUY AND ALL, BUT HE'S NO SCIENTIST! HIS DESCRIPTION OF WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR LEAVES A LOT TO BE DESIRED--
EH--? WHAT'S HE KNOW?


THAT THING FITS AQUAMAN'S GENERAL DESCRIPTION!
I'LL JUST SWIM OVER AND--

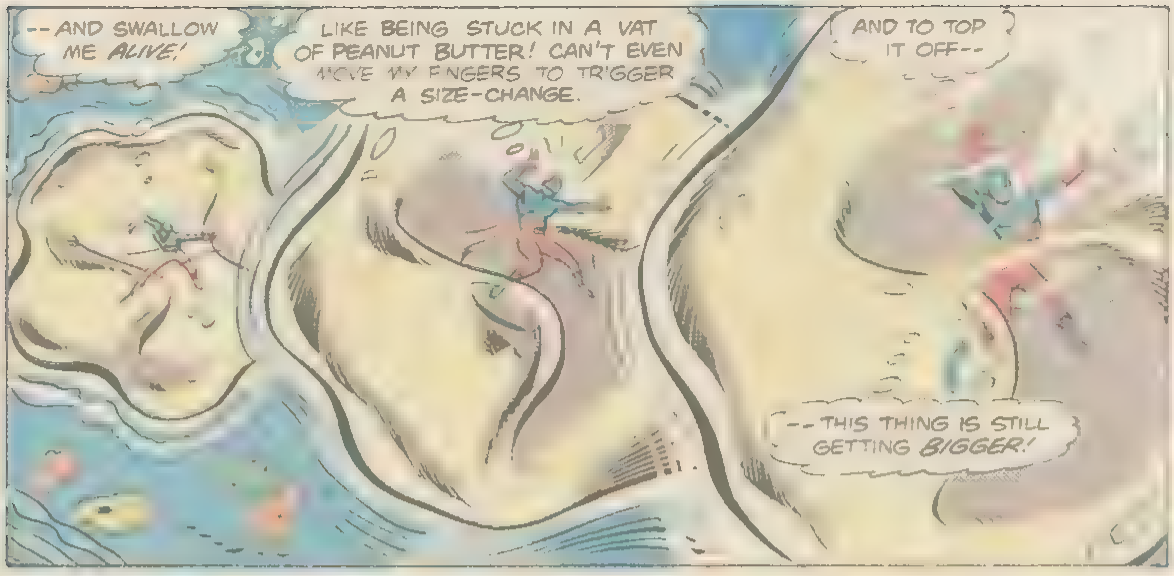

HUNH? ARE MY EYES PLAYING TRICKS ON ME OR DID MY QUARRY JUST DOUBLE IN SIZE?

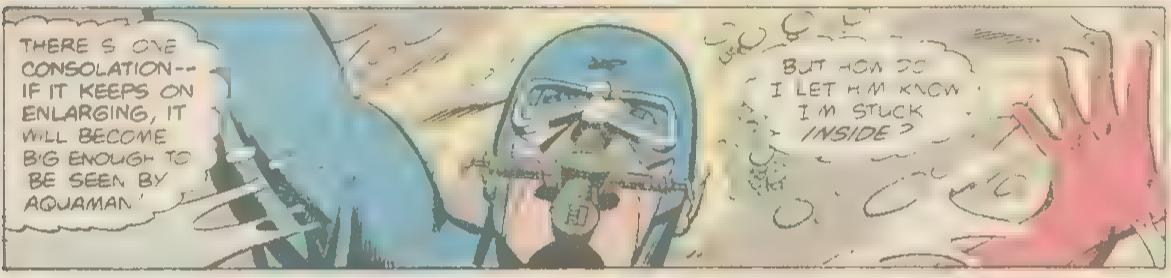
WELL, BLOBBY--TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME--
--WHATEVER THAT GAME MIGHT BE

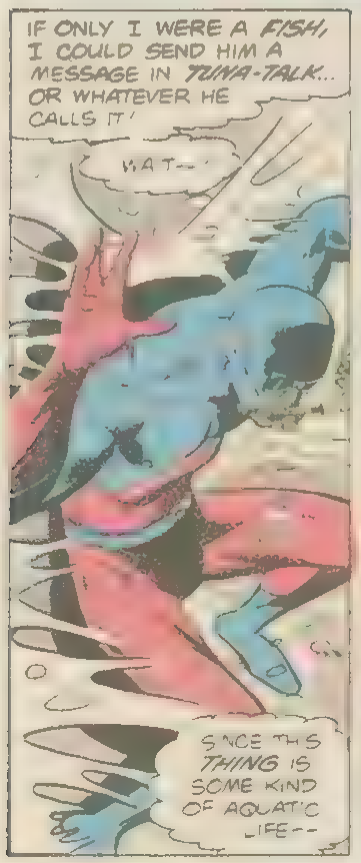

UH-OH! LOOKS LIKE IT'S GROWN BIG ENOUGH TO COME AT ME!
WELL, IF IT'S AN ATTACK, IT'S NOT GONNA HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF SIZE OVER ME!


IT'LL HAVE TO FIGHT SOMEBODY ITS OWN SIZE--
--AND HOPEFULLY IT'S SUPERIOR IN INTELLIGENCE!

ENLARGING FASTER THAN I AM! LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA PULL A "JONAH" ON ME--


--AND SWALLOW ME ALIVE!
LIKE BEING STUCK IN A VAT OF PEANUT BUTTER! CAN'T EVEN MOVE MY FINGERS TO TRIGGER A SIZE-CHANGE.
AND TO TOP IT OFF--
--THIS THING IS STILL GETTING BIGGER!


THERE'S ONE CONSOLATION-- IF IT KEEPS ON ENLARGING, IT WILL BECOME BIG ENOUGH TO BE SEEN BY AQUAMAN!
BUT HOW DO I LET HIM KNOW I'M STUCK INSIDE?


IF ONLY I WERE A FISH, I COULD SEND HIM A MESSAGE IN TUNA-TALK.. OR WHATEVER HE CALLS IT!
WHAT--
SINCE THIS THING IS SOME KIND OF AQUATIC LIFE--

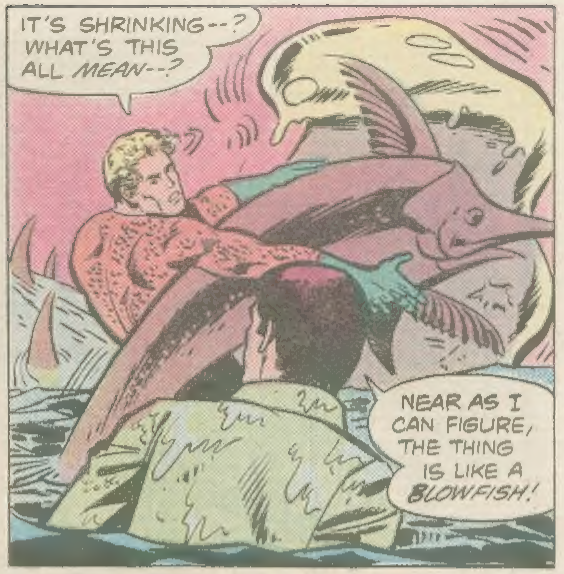
--MAYBE I CAN MENTALLY TAP INTO ITS "BRAIN" AND SEND AQUAMAN AN SOS!

AND WHAT OF THE SEA KING?
GOOD! LOOKS LIKE THE ATOM FOUND THE CREATURE AND GOT IT TO ENLARGE!
GUESS MY PAL WILL BE COMING "UP" SOON, TOO!

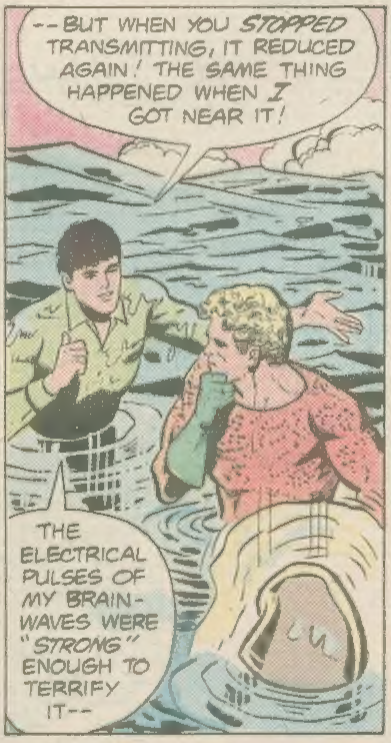
GETTING BAD "VIBRATIONS" FROM THIS CREATURE--
BETTER PLAY IT SAFE AND SUMMON SOME FINNY FRIENDS IN CASE I NEED ASSISTANCE!
Aquaman...do you read me?
SWORDFISH, I NEED YOUR HELP!
aquaman!
SPLASH!
AQUAMAN!
SOME SMALL CREATURE IS APPARENTLY TRYING TO CONTACT ME!
I HEAR YOU, FRIEND OF THE WATERS! WHO ARE YOU... WHERE ARE YOU...?
IT'S ME--THE ATOM! I'M TRAPPED INSIDE THE CREATURE!
GREAT NEPTUNE!

SWORDFISH--SURROUND THE ENEMY--AND JAB--JAB--JAB!
DON'T DARE LET THEM PIERCE TOO DEEPLY AND HIT ATOM!
WITH ENOUGH STABS, THE SWORDFISH SHOULD NUMB THE CREATURE, ALLOWING ATOM TO BREAK FREE!
GOT TO WORK FASTER! I'VE JUST LOST SOME OF MY TROOPS!
AND DOWN AT "ATOMIC" SIZE...
I SEE WHAT AQUAMAN'S RESCUE-PLAN IS--
--REPEATED SWORD-THRUSTS TO MAKE MY CAPTOR LOSE ITS HOLD ON ME!
AHH! FREE TO BE ME AGAIN!
KLIK!
KLIK!
AND, MOMENTS LATER...
;GLUB; HI! BEEN LOOKING FOR ME?
ATOM--RAY PALMER! YOU'RE SAFE! I'LL HAVE MY FINNY FRIENDS FINISH THE CREATURE OFF!

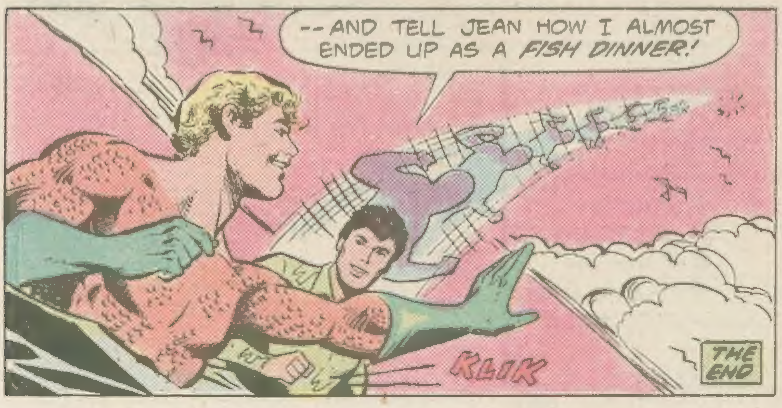
NO-- HOLD IT!
CALL THE SWORDFISH OFF! LEAVE THE CREATURE ALONE!
ALL RIGHT... BUT YOU BETTER HAVE A GOOD REASON!

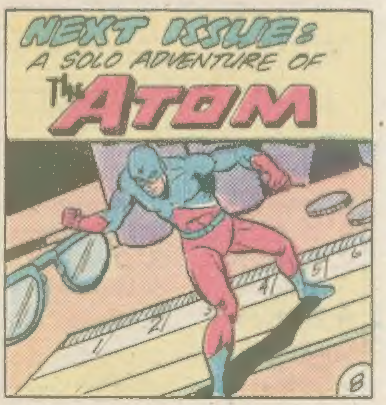

IT'S SHRINKING--? WHAT'S THIS ALL MEAN--?
NEAR AS I CAN FIGURE, THE THING IS LIKE A BLOWFISH!

BLOWFISH--?
YOU KNOW--THE FISH THAT PUFFS UP WHENEVER THERE'S DANGER!
YOU MEAN A PUFFER!
WHATEVER! YOUR TELEPATHIC COMMANDS FRIGHTENED IT--


--BUT WHEN YOU STOPPED TRANSMITTING, IT REDUCED AGAIN! THE SAME THING HAPPENED WHEN I GOT NEAR IT!
THE ELECTRICAL PULSES OF MY BRAIN-WAVES WERE "STRONG" ENOUGH TO TERRIFY IT--

--AND ALSO STRONG ENOUGH TO CHANNEL THROUGH IT WITH THAT SOS MESSAGE FOR ME!
RIGHT! NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--
--I'M GOING TO TELEPORT HOME SO I CAN CHANGE FROM THESE WET CLOTHES--


--AND TELL JEAN HOW I ALMOST ENDED UP AS A FISH DINNER!
KLIK
THE END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